<u>A Dog from the Stars:</u>

Woof! Woof!

By Jonathan Olvera

I wag my tail and wake up beside my partner. I have many plans for us today. Before the sun rises into the sky, I should wake him up. I should wake his mother too. I am excited for the day ahead!

I come from another place among the stars. My home is much smaller than this one. One day, I will take a man with me, and together, we will do many things.

It was long, long ago when I first arrived on this planet. I was following a stone. That stone led me here, and now I live among men. It is in my best interest to understand their species—to observe, to learn. And when the time is right, I will take one with me. It will be helpful for my home.

But I must be careful. Man must not notice. I study them closely, keeping track of their ways through the fur I shed. I use my mind to understand their behavior.

I have a dog, and that dog is man.

It will be a long time before the portal opens again. When it does, I will choose my companion and bring him to my small home among the stars. Our stars are much dimmer than the sun here. But for now, I am here, and I will take my mission seriously.

I will run, I will play, I will taste, smell, and drink the sweet waters of this world.

"Bark! Bark!" I call, and man knows I need his attention.

"Woof! Woof!" I say, and everyone understands me.

Here, I will have fun with humans and small critters alike. I will howl at the moon and bark at the sun. I enjoy being a dog on planet Earth.

A Good Friend.